(c) Yes.

(d) The U.S. Government conveyed that it will continue to press for fulfilment of the commitments it had independently sought and received from President Musharraf.

(e) Government's purposive international engagement has led to the international recognition of Pakistan's links with, and its Government's responsibility to, stop terrorism in India. Government will continue to take all necessary and appropriate measures to build on the success it has achieved in the past year to defeat cross-border terrorism in India.

Extradition of Criminals Hiding in Pakistan

951. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have handed over two separate lists of criminals charged with terrorist activities, who are hiding in Pakistan with the request that they may be extradited to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their numbers and names etc.;

(c) whether Pakistan has started complying with our request;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what further action has been/is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) On 31 st December 2001, Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan, that 15 of the criminals in the list already had interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them.

(c) and (d) Pakistan has not responded positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, in his 12th January 2002 address to the nation stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistan national to India. As regards the presence of non-

Pakistan nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given any asylum to any such persons.

(e) The Government has consistently conveyed that action by Pakistan on the list of 20 will demonstrate its sincerity to permanently stop cross border terrorism against India. Government will take necessary measures to safeguard the country's security.

Totalisation Agreement with USA

952. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USA are going to enter into "Totalisation Agreement" in order to benefit software and other professionals of India working in US on a short-term contract;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed agreement; and

(c) by when the agreement is going to be signed by India and the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. We have proposed entering into a bilateral Totalisation Agreement with the United States to avoid duplication in payment of social security by Indian professionals working in the United States on temporary work visas.The draft Agreement has been shared with U.S. Government, whose comments are awaited. Details of the proposed Agreement are yet to be firmed up. No date can as yet be indicated for signing the Agreement.

Denial of Permission to Cover Pak Parliamentary Election

953. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian media persons were denied permission to cover Parliamentary Election by the Pakistan Government;

(b) the number of Indian scribes who had sought permission; and

(c) the reasons for which they were denied permission.